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ALEX. GAZETTE & VIRGINIA ADVERTISER
(FOR THE COUNTRY)
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and twenty-five cents for each subsequent in-
sertion.
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aries will be charged at advertisement rates
for notices over four lines.

A PERSIAN STORY.

Three centuries ago, says Aben Adhem in his advice, there was a kingdom to the north of what is now Persia—the inhabitants of which were with the present Persians—in which these things of which you complain very seldom occurred. In that blessed land there was no crime to speak of, no accidents, no mistakes, no nothing. Life there was like a calmly-flowing river. The people lived happily and died peacefully, disliking very much to leave; which is quite different here. We had in Koamud, which was the name of the kingdom, no penitentiaries, no reform schools, no civil service examinations, no boards of any kind—nothing of the sort. If the Government wanted a postmaster, we will say, it did not go bothering about qualifications or anything of that sort. It simply posted up on the door of the vacant postoffice a printed statement of what would be required of the postmaster. Then the first man who said he wanted the place was appointed.

"Were not bonds required of him?"
"No. He took the place and went on with his duties."

"But suppose he proved a defaulter?"
"He was immediately caught and hanged."

"Hung for a defalcation?"
"Certainly, and for a mistake as well. If there was an error in his accounts by so much as a pound of wrapping-twine he was hung out of hand."

"But suppose his irregularities were the result of bad business qualities?"
"Then he was hung for being a bad business man. What we wanted was honesty and capacity; and as we did with postmasters we did with everybody else. Suppose a railroad train was off the track—a cornerer's jury was convened over the bodies of the killed. Suppose they discovered the fact that a rail was out of order, or that the road was not patrolled, we hung one president, director, and superintendent. If the accident was caused by any neglect on the part of the conductor he was hung, and so on. Once we hung all the officers of the Tehran and Ispahan road, and from that time there was no accident on that line. Their successors were tolerably careful; and the company hung up a miniature gallows in the cab of every locomotive to remind the engineer of his certain fate in the event of trouble."

"Then we carried the same rule into everything. The people deposited with the First National Bank of Ploally. Very good. The bank suspended one morozor. Exactly. The authorities took the president, cashier, and board of directors all out and hung them because they had been guilty of suspension."

"I didn't steal a dollar of this money," said the president. "It was lost in speculation in Persian Gulf Mail."

"Never a difference," said the judge, "where it was lost. You haven't got it."

"But you won't hang a man who has not stolen, will you?" says the president.

"I will hang you, my joel, for being an idiot. I shall hang you for riskin' money that was not yours to risk."

"And up he went."

"In fact, they have hung them more mercilessly for being fools than for any other crime. If a man said 'I stole it,' they felt a sort of pity for him. If he said 'I lost it,' they felt none at all, and strung him up in a minute."

"Did they hang always for murder?"
"Certainly, all they wanted to know was that the killing took place."

"Did they never admit the plea of insanity?"
"Not any of that. If a man put in the plea they hung him for being insane. They were wont to remark that it was not safe to have insane men running about loose with revolvers, and clubs, and such things, so they hung them for it, or they might endanger some one else's life."

"What, pray, was the effect of this vigorous hanging on things in general?"
"Splendid. Bank officials made no mistakes in their figures and none of their business. The officers of the Government were rather careful about their accounts, for they were hung for mistakes as well as for thieving. The presidents and directors of railroads kept their tracks up, and a more watchful or careful set of men than the conductors, engineers, and switchmen you never saw. There being no plea of any kind permitted, the fact being all that was considered, there was wholesome care used in all departments of life."

"The effect was good in another way. This system reduced the population terribly, but it made a magnificent race of men and women. You see, the vicious and the careless—which is to say the naturally depraved and weak-minded—were all hung, leaving only the industrious and clear-headed to live and perpetuate the species. Consequently it was a splendid people I am, perhaps, a fair specimen. There were no lunatics, idiots, triflers, or dishonest men left to spread mischief and danger. The population was sorted and sifted."

"Is that Government still in existence?"
"Alas! no. There sprang up a class of people who got to pitying criminals. They got into a way of visiting them just before they were stretched, and sending them bouquets, and begging the Governor to pardon them; they got up sympathy for them, and finally some escaped. Then the game was up. The moment there was any doubt as to the certainty of punishment, men became almost as they are here. Then I left the country."

"THE EARTH'S DANGER.—In the preface to his recent excellent book, 'The Abode of Snow,' Mr. Andrew Wilson, well known as the author of one of the most interesting works on the Chinese Empire, revives the old theory of M. Adhemar that the earth will topple over one of these days, and send the oceans sweeping over the continents. The theory is that owing to the greater preponderance of water in the Southern hemisphere, the greatest accumulation of water is round the south pole; when the accumulation has reached a certain point, the balance of the earth must be suddenly destroyed—the centre of sphericity abruptly change far from the centre of gravity, and the whole earth, almost instantaneously, must turn transversely on its axis, move the great oceans, and so produce one of those grand cataclysms which have before now altered the whole face of the globe. Some very good physicians and mathematicians have believed in this theory, which is not easily controverted, even if it be a false one."

DANCING ACADEMIES.

PROF. L. E. VALENTINE'S

Fashionable Dancing Academy,

HARMONIE HALL,

Opens for the reception of pupils on Thursday, Nov. 18. Ladies 6.15; gentlemen 7.15 p. m.

I have the honor to announce to the citizens of Alexandria and vicinity that I will open at the above hall for a series of lessons, and hope my past record in Washington as a teacher for the last eight years will be sufficient recommendation for those desirous of learning the art of dancing.

All the modern dances now used in fashionable circles, including Boston, German, Double Glide, &c., will be taught.

Days and Hours of Tuition: Class for ladies exclusive on Mondays and Thursdays, at 6.15 to 7.15 p. m.; reunion of both classes same evenings 7.15 to 8.15; gentlemen's class Mondays and Thursdays, at 8.15 to 9.15 p. m.

Terms: One month \$4; one quarter \$10; lady and gentleman, entering together, per month, \$6; do., per quarter \$16

A reduction made to clubs or two or more of a family. Circulars can be had at the Academy or at the most prominent stores in the city.

nov 15-1m

REED'S AMERICAN DRESSING, for ladies' and children's boots, shoes, rubbers, leather bags, &c., softening the leather and making it waterproof. This is the only article in the market which combines a permanent blacking with a closer dressing. For ladies' and children's shoes which have worn red it is particularly adapted—it will give them a perfect dressing and will not rub off or crack the clothing. It is believed to be the best thing ever offered for leather bags, trunks, &c.—it makes an elastic surface, and gives a bright lustre. Price twenty-five cents. For sale by the dozen or single bottle.

oct 23

JANNEY & CO.

SANITARY CORSETS!

We have accepted the agency of the above CORSETS direct from New York manufacturers. These Corsets are highly recommended by the medical fraternity, and especially adapted for married ladies. Price \$2.50

JAS. FERGUSON & BRO.,
Sole Agents, 90 King st.

nov 17

NOTIONS, HOSIERY, GLOVES, &c., &c. We call special attention to our full stock of Hosiery, Gloves, Handkerchiefs, Skirts, Fancy Silk Ladies' Vests, Belts, Men's Merino Vests, Suspenders, Umbrellas, Overshirts, &c., all at popular prices.

D. F. BRASHEAR,
No. 109 King street,
Alexandria, Va.

nov 8

GUNS, CAPS, WADS, &c.—Just opened at 88 King street, Alexandria, Va., corner of Royal, an assortment of English Twist Shot Guns, of good quality, and at very low prices; also a Breach Loader, with all the fixtures, shells, &c. Musket Caps, Gun Wads, Flasks, Pouches, Belts, &c., to which we invite attention.

sep 22

J. T. CREIGHTON & SON.

RECEIVED THIS DAY BY STEAMER.
25 bbls No. 1 Split Labrador Herring.
25 bbls No. 3 Mackarel.

Also on hand Family Rice and No. 1 Potomac Herring. For sale by

JOHN-N-O-S-SHERWOOD,
N. E. cor. Cameron and Royal sts.

sep 17

RECEIVED THIS DAY A lot of choice NEW YORK DRY OBER'S, also a lot of prime ROLL BUTTER and FRESH EGGS.

JOHN-N-O-S-SHERWOOD,
N. E. cor. Cameron and Royal sts.

nov 8

THE BEST CURED SUGAR for sale at JOHN-N-O-S-SHERWOOD'S,
N. E. cor. Cameron and Royal sts.

SLICED HAM, Chipped Beef and a full assortment of Out Bacon kept by

W. A. JOHNSON,
44 cor. Pitt and Queen streets.

sep 2

SPICES—Grain and Ground Cloves, Pepper, Allspice, Mace and Ginger, constantly on hand at

DAVY & HARMON'S,
Cor. Prince and Royal streets.

sep 1

FRESH LOUDON COUNTY BUTTER received weekly, and FRESH EGGS always on hand by

W. A. JOHNSON,
44 cor. Pitt and Queen streets.

sep 2

PICKLES—New Cucumber, English Mixed and Chow Chow, at

DAVY & HARMON'S,
Cor. Prince and Royal streets.

sep 1

BLACK LACE SCARF.—A large assortment at less than half their value, at

FERGUSON & BRO'S.,
96 King street.

oct 29

KID GLOVES! KID GLOVES! We have just received a new line of the above goods.

FERGUSON & BRO.,
96 King street.

sep 22

APPLE AND PEACH PAREES, COBERS and SLICERS, at 88 King street, corner of Royal street, wholesale and retail.

sep 13

J. T. CREIGHTON & SON.

ATTENTION

—TO OUR—

NEW GOODS!

CARPETS,

in our NEW HALL, late the Assembly Rooms; the handsome Carpet hall in the State A very handsome stock of Carpets, in Brussels, Three Ply, Ingrain, Gilted, Hemp and Hair; also OIL CLOTHS, from 3-4 to 16 4, cut to fit passages, rooms, &c. without extra charge. Cocoa and Tanned Rattan Matting, and Mats, Rugs, different sizes and qualities.

Particular attention is called to this department, as we have always on hand a very large assortment of everything in this line, and as we buy and sell very largely in this line, we are enabled to sell cheap. Among the new goods we name: Cretones, Cashmeres, Cashmere Ecorses, Henrietta Cloths, Repps, Alpaca, &c.

IN DRESS GOODS, Crape Veils and Collars, Single and Double Throat Shawls, and everything else to make this line complete.

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W. B. WADDEY,

74 KING STREET.

BOOTS & SHOES

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

Fall Trade, 1875.

The subscriber has now on hand one of the largest and best selected stocks of goods in his line ever offered in this market, which he can afford to sell at prices to suit the times.

He names in part: LADIES', GENTS', MISSES', BOYS' AND CHILDREN'S

BOOTS & SHOES,

of fine and coarse work, of superior quality to any ever before offered for sale in this market, manufactured from the best material, and in the most durable and stylish manner, comprising a great variety of new and handsome styles.

Also a large stock of

BOOTS, SHOES AND BROGANS

SUITABLE FOR THE COUNTRY TRADE.

to which he invites the special attention of country merchants and farmers.

All in want will do well to call before purchasing elsewhere.

W. B. WADDEY,

74 KING STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA.

sep 15

FERTILIZERS.

J. J. TURNER & CO'S.

EXCELSIOR.

The price of this deservedly popular Fertilizer is reduced to

FIFTY DOLLARS PER TON.

In mechanical condition and quality EXCELSIOR is the conceded standard of excellence, and competitive tests for seventeen years have established its superiority for all soils and for all crops. Apply to

R. M. LAWSON.

REDUCTION IN PRICE OF OBER'S GUANO.

AA Guano, \$55; Ammoniated Super Phosphate, \$45. We offer these well known Fertilizers at greatly reduced prices, and will furnish any information and Circulars, containing testimonials, on application.

P. B. HOUE, Agent,
No. 2 Prince street.

aug 6

STANDARD FERTILIZERS.

We offer the following popular Fertilizers at reduced prices:

OBER'S "AA" GUANO, \$55.

AMMONIATED SUP. PHOSPHATE, \$45.

BLOOD GUANO—PURE BLOOD AND BONE, \$54.

EUREKA AMMONIATED SUP. PHOSPHATE, \$50.

GUANAHANI GUANO, \$35.

For particulars and Circulars, containing testimonials, apply to

P. B. HOUE, Agent,
No. 2 Prince street.

aug 6

MACHINISTS.

W. S. MOORE,

MACHINIST AND BLACKSMITH,

No. 65 Union street, Alexandria, Va.

Where he is prepared to furnish all kinds of MACHINERY, WROUGHT AND CAST IRON PIPES, &c.

Repairing done with dispatch, and at prices that were charged previous to the war. Jan 20

PHILIP PARK,

PRACTICAL PLUMBER,

No. 12 South Fairfax street.

The oldest and best established Plumbing establishment in the city. All work done with dispatch, and in the most durable and workmanlike manner. Satisfaction guaranteed.

It will be found that Philip Park, and by himself, or the most experienced workmen. Jan 24

JOE PRINTING.

The attention of the public is respectfully called to our facilities for the execution of all descriptions of Job Printing.

We have an extensive and varied assortment of all the latest styles of

JOB TYPE

and are constantly adding to our stock, from which we are prepared to print anything, from a